श्री राजनाथ सिंह 'सूर्य': सभापति महोदय, मुझे और कोई सप्लिमेंट्री प्रश्न नहीं पूछना है।

Question No. 154. [The questioner (Shri Abani Roy) was absent for answer *vide* page 37 *Infra.*]

Question No. 155. [The questioner (Shri Raju Parmar) was absent for answer *vide* page 38 *Infra.*]

Duties and responsibilities of DRDAs

*156. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the duties and responsibilities of the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs);

(b) the allocation made to these DRDAs for the last three years;

(c) whether the DRDAs have spent the allocated money during these years; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) are visualised as specialised professional bodies capable of managing the anti-poverty programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development and to effectively relate the same to the overall effort of poverty eradication in the District. The DRDAs are envisaged to be facilitating and supporting organisations to the Zilla Parishad and providing necessary executive and technical support in respect of poverty reduction efforts, so as to ensure effective utilisation of the available funds. The DRDAs are required to coordinate with the Line Departments, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Banks and other financial institutions, NGOs as well as the technical institutions, with a view to harnessing

the support and resources required for poverty reduction efforts, the DRDAs are also required to closely monitor the implementation of various Schemes and to ensure financial discipline in respect of the funds received by them.

2. The allocations during the last three years to the DRDAs, by the Ministry of Rural Development, for the Schemes of District Rural Development Administration, the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, the Indira Awaas Yojana, the Employment Assurance Scheme and the Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana are as below:

Year	Allocation (Central) (Rs. in crores)
1999-00	6901.45
2000-01	5741.19
2001-02	6163.10

3. Certain DRDAs have been unable to fully spend the allocated funds under various Programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development, during the last three years. The reasons for non-drawal of full allocations include high opening balances, non-release of State's share in full and delays in forwarding complete proposals.

PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Sir, there are several duties and responsibilities of the DRDA. The Minister has given a list of various schemes in his answer. The scheme is meant for rural development and for creating rural employment opportunities. I want to know whether there is proper coordination between the Zilla Parishad and other agencies.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, one of the most important responsibilities of the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) is in regard to the poverty alleviation programmes. Wherever the Zilla Parishad is an elected body, normally, the Chairman of the Zilla Parishad is supposed to be the Chairman of the DRDA. So, that way, there is proper coordination between the Zilla Parishad and the District Rural Development Agency. Practically, it is a monitoring

agency. And the Zilla Parishad being an elected body, other elected Members are also there. So, there is a proper coordination. But unfortunately, some States have not made the Chairman of the Zilla Parishad, the Chairman of the DRDA. In some places, they have appointed the District Collector as the Chairman of the DRDA; and, in some places, the District Revenue Officer is the Chairman of the DRDA. We are pursuing with the State Governments in this regard. We have told them that wherever elected bodies are there, the Chairman of the Zilla Parishad body should become the Chairman of the DRDA so that there is effective coordination between the elected people and the official machinery.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

M.C.D. Elections

*143. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the request from the Chief Minister of Delhi for holding M.C.D. Elections in the month of February instead of March, 2002 on account of annual examination of students, was rejected by him on the ground of paucity of security staff;

(b) if so, what is the number of security staff required for managing M.C.D. Elections in Delhi; and

(c) whether he had received any suggestion for requisition of forces from other States like Haryana, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh where elections were not held during the month of February and if so, what action he had taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) In accordance with sub-section (1) of section 7 of "the Municipal Corporation Act, 1957", the responsibility for the conduct of all elections to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi is vested in the Election Commission to the National Capital Territory of Delhi. The said Commission had initially proposed to hold the elections to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi on 21st February, 2002 subject to the condition that the Central Government placed at the disposal of the